

**c. Amendments to the Drawings**

None

**e. Remarks**

**AMENDMENTS**

The amendment to claim 1 is, e.g., supported at Figures 9 and 12b, at page 12, lines 5 – 15, and from page 13, line 21, to page 14, line 31, of the '806 parent application.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

**At page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1 – 3 and 5 - 13 as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,312,967 of Ikeda (Herein, referred to as Ikeda.).**

Amended claim 1 recites “each dielectric region ... covering an end of only one threading defect”. The pending application provides various examples of dielectric regions that cover the end of a single threading defect. For example, Fig. 9 shows each dielectric cap 132 as covering the end of a single threading defect, and Fig. 12b shows individual ones of the passivated regions around the ends of single ones of threading defects. In contrast, distant outer and central regions of mask layer (4a) in Ikeda’s Figure 2 do not teach or suggest such a feature. In particular, Ikeda’s Fig. 2 shows each individual region of the mask layer (4a) as covering the ends of multiple ones of the threading dislocations (M).

Due to the lack of a prior art teaching for the above-described feature, amended claim 1 is novel over Ikeda as applied by the Office Action.

Claims 2 – 3 and 5 – 13 are novel over Ikeda as applied in the Office Action, at least, by their dependence on novel amended claim 1.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

**At page 4, the Office Action rejects claim 4 as obvious over a combination of Ikeda and U.S. Patent 6,784,463 of Camras et al (Herein, referred to as Camras.).**

Claim 4 is non-obvious over Ikeda and Camras as applied in the Office Action, at least, by its dependence on amended claim 1.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants request allowance of claims 1 – 2 and 4 – 13.

In the event of any non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Lucent Technologies Deposit Account No. 12-2325** as required to correct the error.

Respectfully,



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